

**Salt Lake County Council**  
Committee of the Whole

**~MINUTES~**

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

[1:07:38 PM](#)

Committee Members

Present:

Jennifer Wilson  
Richard Snelgrove  
Jim Bradley  
Michael Jensen  
Aimee Winder Newton  
Sam Granato  
Max Burdick  
Steven DeBry, Chair

Excused:

Arlyn Bradshaw

Citizen Public Input ([1:07:50 PM](#))

No one appeared for "Citizen Public Input."



Freedom From Domestic Violence ([1:15:37 PM](#))

**Mr. Mark Whitney**, President, Utah Association of Counties (UAC), stated last year, the new president of the National Association of Counties (NACo), created an initiative for each county to identify an area that would improve residents' quality of life. He chose domestic violence, and is encouraging all 29 counties to pass a resolution declaring that freedom from domestic violence is a fundamental human right and that local government has a responsibility to continue securing this right on behalf of its citizens.

**Council Member Wilson** read the following resolution:

*A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT FREEDOM FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT AND THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTINUE SECURING THIS RIGHT ON BEHALF OF OUR CITIZENS*

WHEREAS, according to the Utah Domestic Violence Council, one in three women and one in eight men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime;

WHEREAS, according to the Utah Domestic Violence Council, 42% of homicides in the state of Utah are domestic violence related;

WHEREAS, survivors of domestic violence must deal with the effects of physical injuries, long-term psychological damage, financial instability, and trouble finding safe housing;

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WHEREAS, police and sheriff's departments, courts, cities, social service agencies, and other local government entities constitute the first line of defense against domestic violence;

WHEREAS, police and sheriff's departments, courts, cities, social service agencies, and other local government entities incur significant monetary costs due to domestic violence;

WHEREAS, world leader's and leaders within the United States recognize that domestic violence is a human rights concern:

WHEREAS, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted in 1993, recognizes the urgent need for the universal application to women the rights and principles with regard to equality, security, liberty, integrity, and dignity of all human beings noting that "those rights and principles are enshrined in international instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights"; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights condemned violence and human rights violations against women in March, 1994; and

WHEREAS, by recognizing that domestic violence is a human rights issue, the Salt Lake County Council will raise awareness and enhance domestic violence education in communities, the public and private sectors, and within government agencies;

NOW THEREFORE, the legislative body of Salt Lake County, State of Utah resolves as follows:

Section 1: That Salt Lake County declares freedom from domestic violence is a fundamental human right.

Section 2: That Salt Lake County declares state and local governments bear a responsibility to continue securing this human right on behalf of their citizens.

APPROVED and signed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017.

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

By /s/ STEVE DEBRY  
Chair

**Ms. Heather Wolsey**, victim and survivor, relayed her experience of domestic violence stating she stayed in an abusive marriage out of fear until her spouse tried to kill her. Even after leaving, he harassed and stalked her for years. Now, she wants to help others. The only way to stop domestic violence is to acknowledge it and start seeking solutions by enforcing laws and providing resources to people who need them.

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**Ms. Jenifer Campbell**, Executive Director, South Valley Services, stated South Valley Services provides shelter and services for anyone affected by domestic violence. It trains law enforcement to understand domestic violence and refer individuals for services. Today, she was representing the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition, a coalition to help recognize the existence of domestic violence, understand what can be done to stop it, and refer individuals to the appropriate resources. Currently, in the state of Utah, 1 in 3 women will experience domestic violence in their life, and 1 in 5 will experience it this year.

**Council Member Newton** stated education is the first key because people do not realize how prevalent domestic violence is. One-third of homicides are domestic violence related. Domestic violence is not just physical abuse, but also emotional abuse, i.e. manipulation, verbal abuse. The system needs to change, whether through law or policy, to help bring about awareness and enable those who need it to get help.

**Council Member DeBry** stated law enforcement's number one call is because of domestic violence. It is also the most dangerous call an officer can go on, as it is unpredictable. There is also a ripple effect from domestic violence. It affects many innocent people. The best thing to do is put together advocacy groups. Law enforcement has an advocacy unit to help victims with resources and places to go or stay. Training is also held for officers to learn red flags of domestic violence and how to handle victims and situations.

**Mr. Sim Gill**, District Attorney, stated domestic violence cases are the worst cases to prosecute because the collateral consequences are so profound. Statistics show that almost \$5.8 billion a year is lost as collateral consequences of intimate partner violence; 85 percent of women and 15 percent of men are impacted; and every 9 seconds someone is getting abused. According to a study, during 2001-2012, 6,488 American soldiers were killed defending the country in Afghanistan, and in that same time period, 11,766 women were murdered in the country as a result of intimate partner violence. Domestic violence is learned behavior, and it is preventable. Everyone has a role to play, and the District Attorney's Office is committed to doing more.

**Council Member Wilson** challenged everyone in the room to look within their own division and see what more could be done.



Review of Proposed Hires ([1:35:29 PM](#))

**Mr. Brad Kendrick**, Budget & Policy Analyst, Council Office, reviewed the following proposed hires:

Agency

Position

*Parks & Recreation Division*

Program Coordinator 13  
Office Coordinator 12